1	2	3	4
7	Thailand	..	0·81
8	Czechoslovakia	..	0·67
9	U.S.A.	..	0·63
10	[illegible]slavia	..	0·71
11	Philippines	0·35	0·48
12	Mauritius	..	0·13
13	Malaysia	..	0·12
14	Bulgaria	0·28	..
15	Vietnam	..	0·09
		4·96	19·51

Counterfeit Notes Deposited by Certain Banks and Southern Railway in Madras Office of Reserve Bank

825. SHRI K. GOPALAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Reserve Bank traced counterfeit notes in the currency bundles deposited at its Madras Office by certain banks and Southern Railway;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and whether any investigation has been made in this regard; if so, what action has been taken on the basis of investigation made; and

(c) whether any officials were found involved in this racket?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Reserve Bank of India has reported details of forged notes detected during April-July, 1986 as follow:—

Month	Total Number (in million pieces)	Number of forged notes detected
		pieces
April . . .	28·77	27
May . . .	24·96	23
June . . .	28·64	23
July . . .	31·42	17

The matter has been referred by the Reserve Bank of India to the Police authorities for investigation.

Rubber Board

826. SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) what was the amount of subsidy given by the Rubber Board during the last three years, year-wise and the

number of persons who were given the subsidy;

(b) what was the number of applications in this regard for replantation in each State and also how many were for fresh plantations;

(c) how many applications were from small farmers and how many were from medium farmers in each State;

(d) the number of complaints received by Government against delay and other irregularities in the distribution of subsidy; and

(e) whether Government propose to direct the lead banks to assist rubber growers in replantation and also for bringing fresh areas under rubber cultivation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BRAHM DUTT): (a) to (e) The amount of subsidy disbursed by the Rubber Board for replanting/new-planting of rubber and the number of beneficiaries in the last three years were as follows:

(*In Rs. lakhs*)

Year	Amount of subsidy	No. of beneficiaries
1983-84 . .	561·33	47002
1984-85 . .	655·49	56694
1985-86 . .	938·43	105204

NOTE. Payments relate to earlier years planting also.

State-wise number of applications for subsidy under replanting and fresh planting during the last three years were as follows:—

State	1983-84		1984-85		1985-86	
	RP	NP	RP	NP	RP	NP
Kerala	3481	13924	3279	13535	5109	18497
Tamilnadu . . .	25	202	31	104	65	191
Karnataka . . .	1	306	3	459	1	524
Other non-traditional areas	..	317	..	282	..	255

(NP—Replanting, NP—Newplantinhg)

State-wise number of applications for each year from small and from medium farmers were as follows:

State	1983-84		1984-85		1985-86	
	Small	Medium	Small	Medium	Small	Medium
Kerala	7283	64	16715	66	23502	82
Tamilnadu . . .	219	4	119	4	242	7
Karnataka . . .	298	4	453	7	515	10
Others	314	1	279	1	169	76

Rubber Board received only a few complaints against delay in payment of subsidy.

Major Commercial Banks operating in rubber growing areas already provide loans for replanting/newplanting to growers, which are refinanced by NABARD.

Labour Attaches in Indian Embassies in Gulf Countries

827. SHRI D. B. CHANDRA GOWDA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to post labour Attaches in Indian Embassies in Gulf countries to deal with the problems of the Indian migrant workers; and

(b) if so, whether any final decision has been taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. It is under consideration.

Amendment of Provident Fund Act

828. SHRIMATI KRISHNA KAUL: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to amend the Provident Fund Act to provide for increase in penalty for default;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) by when the proposed amendment is likely to be effected?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Details are being worked out.

(c) Efforts are being made to bring forward a suitable amending Bill, as early as possible.

Scheme for Organising Beedi Workers into Cooperatives

829. SHRIMATI RATAN KUMARI: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the honorary Adviser appointed to help in formulating a scheme for organising beedi workers into cooperatives has since submitted his report;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) what action has been taken by Government thereon;

(d) whether it is a fact that his Ministry has received a project entitled 'Promotion of Industrial Cooperatives Among Beedi Workers' from the ILO; and

(e) if so, what are the details thereof and what action Government have taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The honorary Adviser has *inter-alia* recommended organisation of beedi workers into co-operatives with a minimum strength of 5000 workers. The scheme envisages financial assistance to co-operative societies. Since formation of co-operative societies is primarily the concern of the State Governments, the outline of the project report prepared by the honorary Adviser was sent to the important beedi manufacturing States for suitable action. It is learnt that the Gujarat Government have helped in the formation of some co-operative societies of beedi workers.

(d) No, Sir. A draft project idea has been received from the I.L.O.

(e) Does not arise.